

against bipartisan reform sponsored by Republicans and Democrats, and backed by most every good government organization in this country.

With that background, it is very troubling to hear now the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) announce in the first month of his speakership that he would put this vital issue on the back burner. We need an end to obstructionism and some real bipartisan reform.

#### LET US HAVE TRUE BIPARTISANSHIP AND TRUE REFORM

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it should come as no surprise that my colleagues on the left want to posture in the name of reform. After all, they, and to tell the truth, all the American people, have been embarrassed by an administration that took campaign donations from the People's Republic of China. That is despicable. So we would ask in a bipartisan fashion that they join with us to get to the bottom of Chinese influence on our government and on our political system, and that is the real step to reform.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I would ask my friends on the left to give the working men and women of America who happen to belong to unions the right to devote their union dues directly to collective bargaining, instead of going into the campaign coffers of liberal interest groups. That is another real step for reform.

Let us have true bipartisanship and true reform, quit the preening and posturing, and stand up for America.

#### TIME FOR MEANINGFUL AND TIMELY DEBATE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. DAVIS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, during the last Congress the Republican leadership attempted to block the passage of meaningful campaign finance reform. But the freshman class of 1996, Democrats and Republicans, worked together on a bipartisan basis with the Shays-Meehan bill to force the issue. We ultimately succeeded in bringing an open debate on this issue to the Floor of the House.

We thought we had demonstrated the importance to the American people of taking up campaign finance reform, but once again the Republican leadership does not fully appreciate the magnitude of this issue.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Shays-Meehan bill. We must ban soft money and find a way to regulate sham issue ads. Soft money contributions are exploding. The amount of money contributed to both political

parties has grown at an enormous and unacceptable rate. In 1992 soft money accounted for \$86 million. By 1996 it had increased to \$260 million. In 1998, a nonpresidential election year, it increased to \$193 million, twice the increase the previous year.

We need to address this cancer. We need to sign the discharge petition, and have meaningful and timely debate on campaign finance reform.

#### KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET AND THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, which dog is the tail wagging today? This chart shows one of the key differences between the President's budget and the Republican budget. The Republican budget pays down the debt by \$1.8 trillion over 10 years. The President's budget pays down the debt by much less.

Let us take a look at that again: \$1.8 trillion in debt reduction under the Republican plan, higher debt levels under the President's plan. Our budget does a much better job of paying off the debt. The President's budget leaves us in debt for longer periods of time. The Republican budget also provides middle class tax relief from future surpluses, and our budget puts away 100 percent of the retirement surplus for social security and Medicare. We put that money in a safe deposit box so that Washington spenders will put an end to their 40-year practice of raiding social security to pay for new government programs. It is a great budget and a budget to be proud of.

#### THE IMF PROPOSAL TO GIVE RUSSIA MORE MONEY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a new report says Uncle Sam gives billions of dollars to Russia every year, and the money disappears into an offshore bank account. Guess what, much of the money is now reported stolen. If that is not enough to bust your balsam, check this out. The International Monetary Fund announced today they want to give Russia more money.

Mr. Speaker, I submit, the IMF has brains in their assets. I yield back all our wasted taxpayer dollars that are going to Russian fat cats partying with our dollars and not even supporting us in Kosovo. Members should think about that.

#### HCFA HOME HEALTH CARE ASSESSMENT UNDERMINES PRIVACY OF AMERICANS

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, now the big government bureaucrats in the Clinton administration have decided they do care about the privacy rights of the American people after all. Just 14 days before 9,000 home health care providers are to begin submitting the personal medical information of millions of Americans to the Federal Government, we learn in the Washington Post that the Health Care Financing Administration has decided to review the program's privacy implications, something which should have been considered long before this misguided regulation ever saw the light of day.

Is this newfound concern for privacy going to prevent the administration from prying into the lives of innocent Americans and creating a Federal database of their medical information? Sadly, the answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, is no. The administration is simply delaying the ultimate submission of the data to the Federal Government.

The home health care providers are still expected to conduct the 19-page assessment of each page, including private questions concerning the patient's sense of failure or socially inappropriate behavior. Let us put an end to this outrageous conduct.

#### CONGRESS MUST ACT NOW TO PASS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM AND BAN SOFT MONEY

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, Congress must act now to pass campaign finance reform and ban soft money. We must act now in a nonelection year, before the strategic calculations of the election year money chase contaminate the debate on campaign finance reform. We must act now before unregulated, unaccountable soft money contributions drown out the people's voices in the 2000 election.

If we thought the presidential election year of 1996 was awash in soft money, 2000 promises to be a deluge. We must act now to give the Senate sufficient time to act. Campaign finance reform is too important to be held hostage to the anti-reform faction's policy of delay, delay, delay.

I urge Members to sign the discharge petition so we can pass the Shays-Meehan reform bill. If we combine last year's votes on the Shays-Meehan and Hutchinson-Allen bills, 352 Members voted to ban soft money. That is 81 percent of the House.

I urge my colleagues to sign the discharge petition, pass Shays-Meehan, and ban soft money.

#### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE APRIL 15 TAX DEADLINE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House